

Friday, January 31, 1840.

Extract of a Letter from a Traveller.

Mr. RYDER.—In my visit to Washington I had an opportunity of seeing many specimens of our republicanism. In dining at the President's table, I observed that the cooking was all of foreign growth, French or Italian. It was absolutely laughable to see the various dishes offered, which no guest dared to take. Dish after dish was handed round by the waiters, which were so disguised that the guests did not know what they were, and declined taking them.

Nor was it less laughable to see the diversities in the faces of the guests. Here and there a man was seen with mustaches on his upper lip five inches long; still more were disguised with enormous whiskers, covering cheek, chin and throat. Why a man might almost imagine himself among so many bears. Who could have thought that this custom, borrowed from the semi-barbarian armies of Russia, Austria and Prussia, would ever be introduced among a civilized people!

But nothing is more extraordinary than the obsequiousness of Americans in adopting the practice of feeding themselves with forks instead of knives. This practice originated in Italy and France, where lettuce and oil make a prominent figure at the table. A broad silver fork, not quite so broad as some mouths, was found very convenient to take up from a dish salad, consisting of lettuce chopped fine and swimming in oil. Well, this being the practice in France, the English to be in the fashion, must use the like fork to feed themselves with roast beef and potatoes. Then to crown the folly, they denounce feeding with a knife as vulgar. Now, I should be glad if some of your sturdy Vermonters would exert his ingenuity to prove it to be less proper and decent to put the broad end of a knife into his mouth, than the end of a fork or of a spoon.

Consistency.—Mr L. S. Chatfield, a member of the N. Y. legislature, and a leader of the locofoco party in that state, when the senatorial question was under discussion, nominated Gerrit Smith, Esq. of Peterboro, as candidate for that office. It is generally known that Mr Smith is one of the most thorough going abolitionists in the state. And more than that, he is opposed to the re-election of Martin Van Buren. But the loco focus were willing to do anything, if they could but defeat the election of Talmadge. But in putting Gerrit Smith in nomination, they showed plainly that they had no confidence in their own strength.—They hoped by this course to get the votes of those members of the legislature who are abolitionists—elect Smith, and call it a Van Buren triumph! So they would elect a man to Congress, whose humble petition has for years been thrown under the table by their own party! And these very loco focus say it is just. O 'consistency thou art a jewel!' Had he been elected, he must have felt very awkward in taking his new brethren by the hand, on his arrival at the Capital. But we think the drill masters would never exceed in coaxing or whipping him into the support of Van Buren. The old gentleman has a mind of his own, and would be an unflinching advocate for the right of petition. But Mr. Talmadge is elected—so the loco focus of the N. Y. Legislature will take no more pains to court the abolitionists, for the present.

Murder for Love. We find it stated in the papers that a man by the name of Edgar Newman was shot, recently in Maryland by one James P. Wroth. Newman was in a room in company with three females, when he was shot through the window. It appears that both Newman and Wroth had formed an attachment for one Lovina Piper; and Miss Piper declining the attentions of Wroth, he took this way to get rid of his rival. Poor fellow, he must now suffer the penalty of the law, instead of suffering from unrequited affection.—A man has no need in these times, when girls are as plenty as blackberries, to take the life of a fellow being, in order to obtain a help mate. If rejected by scores of pretty faces, he can still find enough more. We hope our Green Mountain Boys will never think of sacrificing an innocent life, and consequently lose their own, because their attentions are not preferred, in the eyes of their Dulcinea, to the attentions of some one else. If the girls are so scarce in Maryland, that a part of the young men must be inhumanly murdered to make room for the rest, we advise them to come to Vermont. We have a plenty here, and to spare, if the applicants are worthy. We can show them a host of girls on whom there is no "incumbrance," and they can obtain a "warrent deed" of their hearts, if they have one pure and uncontaminated to offer in return. But let us hear of no more shooting to win the prize.

The Lexington.—The New-York American remarks—"Among the many affecting incidents connected with this fearful calamity, that of finding the dead body of a little boy, aged four years, his face covered with a lady's green veil, 'the last act,' as the Express well says, 'of a mother's love, to screen the face of her child from the advancing flames,' is not the least touching. But who dares to trust his imagination, even for an instant, to picture the sad realities of that most tragic night."

A great Whig meeting in New Orleans, was held on the 4th inst. to respond to the Harrisburg nominations. The Picayune says, it was the largest political meeting ever convened in the city.

The Government of Massachusetts.—Gov. Morton's hands are pretty effectually tied. On Tuesday his Council were chosen—every one of whom, nine in number, are Whigs. The majority was about thirty for each candidate.

Elijah Belding of Swansey, is the whig candidate for Senator, No. 9.—N. Hampshire.

Self-possession.—But few men have perfect self-possession at all times, and under all circumstances. Perhaps we might say that there is no man, but what acts at times differently from what sober judgment would dictate. Yet there is a great difference in men about retaining their presence of mind in times of danger. Some persons cannot act at all when under the influence of sudden fear. In the very moment when their aid would be of the highest importance to them, or their friends, they have not power to lift a finger. We have known people, when suddenly discovering their dwelling to be on fire, to be so entirely overcome with fear, as to be unable to render any assistance in extinguishing the flames. A good swimmer not unfrequently loses his life through fear, not being able to swim half the distance he could easily do were he swimming for exercise, or recreation. People, when under the influence of fear, not unfrequently pursue the very course, of all others, the most dangerous. They throw oil upon a fire they would extinguish, and run directly against an object they are seeking to shun. It is an old, and very true maxim, that a person should think twice, before speaking once; and we think it may apply to acting, as well as speaking. Though it may be necessary to act, sometimes, upon a moment's warning, yet we think more is lost by not taking time to think how to act, than in not acting soon enough.

We have been led to make these remarks from reading an account of the burning of the steamer Lexington. As almost always happens, in such cases, the passengers, and all on board, manifested the greatest want of self-possession. When it was ascertained that the boat was on fire, had the steam been let off—so that the boat would have slackened her pace, it is very possible the fire might have been extinguished; or, if this could not have been done, and it had been thought best to relinquish the boat to the flames, the whole of those on board might have been saved by the life boat and other boats belonging to the Lexington. But they were under full headway—and the confusion of all on board arising from excessive fear made it impossible for any to be saved by the boats. They were "swamped" as soon as they struck the water. Had those on board been calm as though they were not in danger, the awful calamity and loss of lives might have been averted.

LOUISIANA.—Governor Roman of Louisiana, in his address to the Legislature on the opening of its session, confines himself almost exclusively to the discussion of the subject of the currency, and that of the finances of the state. In reference to the administration doctrines, on the subject of the currency, the functions of banks, and the regulation of the exchanges, he expresses the following very sensible opinions:

Our general government failing in their financial experiment, did not profit by the lesson of experience, and instead of attributing the faults of the state banks to the real cause—the want of a regulator to their issues—they seem desirous to inflict punishment upon these institutions, because in obeying their own direction, they had undertaken more than they could perform; and those very banks who were formerly designated as alone able to furnish a healthy circulation, are now endeavoring to be made subject to public indignation as monopolists. The effective services that these corporations have formerly rendered and can again render, the stimulus and increase that they have given to the national prosperity, and that render them so essential to the industry of the country, that their destruction is impossible without general confusion and ruin;—all these considerations are disregarded, and the abuses are alone considered, to which banks are as subject as all other institutions. Instead of seeking to regulate the circulation of the Union, the government, if I can comprehend the views of the president, believes itself dispensed from this obligation, leaves commerce to regulate its exchanges as it can, and desires to confine itself to the mere collection and disbursement of the revenue;—unmindful that, by the derangement of the circulating medium, all classes of productive industry are injured; that the mechanic and the farmer suffer with the merchant; and thus the strange anomaly is presented, of a popular government discharging itself from the duty of attending to the interests and welfare of the people.

The Dispatch, an ably conducted paper of New York, gives no quarter to the rowdies and blackguards which infest that city. The editor calls things by their right names; he speaks freely and fearlessly of the late riots in that city. This is right; the press should not tamper with such things, but speak out. Some of the New York papers fear to tell the truth—or tell it in so plausible a manner, that it is rather an effort to stimulate to further atrocious acts, than otherwise. Rowdism should not be handled with gloves on—unless we wish to encourage a lawless banditti to trample our laws beneath their feet. That press does not deserve patronage, that seeks it by apologizing for such rascals as paraded the streets of New York, on New Year's night. Two, of a gang that attacked a house inhabited by Germans, were shot by the inmates. If a dozen of them had fallen, instead of two, the law would have demanded no penalty.

E. Croswell, editor of the Albany Argus, a federal paper, is no more;—we do not mean that he has exactly ceased to breathe, for he still continues to breathe out "threatenings and slaughter" against the Whigs—but we mean he is no more state printer. Ye loco focus "that have tears, prepare to shed them now." The Argus man can no more play at the tune of 30,000 a year.

Thurlow Weed, that indefatigable Whig, is elected printer.

The Whig State Convention at New Haven, Conn. nominated the present incumbents for reelection. The election takes place in April—the first after that of New Hampshire.

NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY. From some remarks made in the United States Senate, by Mr. Buchanan, the Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations, it has been inferred that serious difficulties are apprehended between our government and that of Great Britain, in regard to the Northeastern Boundary. It will be recollected that certain resolutions were proposed by the Senators from Maine, calling on the President to communicate to the Senate what measures, if any, had been taken, to cause the removal or expulsion of the British troops from the disputed territory. Mr Buchanan objected to the passage of the resolutions, because he thought they contained or implied a censure of the President.

Mr Buchanan said that, on the question of the Northeastern boundary, the conduct of the President had hitherto been so fortunate as to satisfy even his political opponents. It had combined prudence with firmness, and had received the approbation of almost every reflecting man in the country. The negotiation on this important question was, if he might be permitted to use the expression, now at its very crisis; and the President had deemed it inexpedient to communicate to Congress any of the correspondence which had taken place between the two Governments since the close of the last session, doubtless because he deemed that it might have an injurious effect upon the negotiation. Judging by the past, (said Mr Buchanan) surely we ought to have sufficient confidence in the President to wait for a short period, and not be calling upon him for communications which may be injurious to the public interest, and which, if so, ought to be withheld. The final result of the negotiation will probably soon be known; and will then, as a matter of course, be submitted to Congress, with all the correspondence.

Allow me, (said Mr Buchanan) to make one general remark before I take my seat.—I am very apprehensive that we may have serious difficulties with the British authorities before the close of this controversy. My earnest desire is, therefore, that our proceedings may be marked with such justice, moderation, and firmness as to justify us in the eyes of all mankind. A contest must be avoided, if this be possible, consistently with the national honor; and then, if it should be forced upon us, we shall be a united People.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. Ruggles, Allen, Buchanan, Clay of Kentucky, and Davis of Massachusetts. Mr. Ruggles said,

They had learned from the President himself that commissioners had been appointed to make a survey of the country, and report not to this, but to the British Government. And what had that commission done? They had gone upon the St. Johns river, crossing the line on their way to the west, to the head waters of the St. Johns, which were contiguous to those of the Aroostook; and they had then gone down the Aroostook, and had entirely avoided that section of country which was designated by the treaty of 1783 and where the highlands were to be found as pointed out by the treaty. And now Mr. Ruggles would ask the Senator from Pennsylvania, if he believed for a moment that all this was for the purpose of ascertaining the facts in regard to the treaty? It had, on the contrary, been apprehended that thus, under cover of the treaty, it was for the purpose of seeking out military posts, and not of finding those marks and monuments which the treaty designated. This suspicion might be unfounded; but the apprehension itself, which the Senator from Pennsylvania had expressed seemed to warrant this inference of the People of Maine in reference to this survey. They had surveyed the rivers, and not the highlands; and this went to warrant the inference that the object of the survey was to get information for the Government of Britain, that might be useful to them in case of the event which the Senator apprehended. And if such was their object, was it not proper to ask the President whether he had taken any precautionary measures, at least so far as to make a similar examination, especially as there was not a question in Congress or the country as to the right of Maine to the territory in dispute.

Mr Ruggles said further, that there had been a palpable and admitted violation of the arrangement entered into by the mediation of General Scott, of which the President could not but have been aware; and, in respect to caution, there had been abundance of that. The British Government had been cautious enough never to have a minister here with power to adjust the controversy; here, and here only, where the adjustment ought to have been made. They had now been cautious enough to send on this singularly conducted commission one of the ablest engineers of England, as if for the very purpose of a military survey. Mr Ruggles hoped, therefore, the amendment would be adopted.

Mr Davis said.—The sentiment throughout Congress and the country, was unanimous in favor of Maine; and what the President in his late Message had said, was well felt deeply to be true, that the controversy had continued too long. It was full time for it to be brought to a close. And who knew what might be the present state of facts? At the last session, such was the excitement in the public mind, that when the British were about to take possession of this territory, there was a great indignation manifested here and generally. Maine thought it her duty to repel that invasion. And how was the difficulty adjusted? By the mediation of General Scott, sent by this Government, between Maine and New-Brunswick. There was now intelligence, very near official, that the territory was in the occupation of British troops, to remain there through the winter; and there was even an admission by the government of New-Brunswick, that the agreement entered into had been violated. And what was the explanation of the Governor? That it had been done, not by his authority, but by one still higher, viz: that of the Governor General of Canada. Mr Davis thought

there was every reason to be on the alert on this subject, and though he would violate no delicacy, he would not, on the other hand, forbear till forbearance might well and justly be construed into tame submission. Very near, if not quite, to this point we had already gone, and he thought there was danger that the British Government might so construe it, and act accordingly.

In this connection we subjoin the following remarks from the National Intelligencer—a Journal that rarely speaks "without book."

We confess ourselves startled at the serious character of the remarks made on Friday last in the Senate, by Mr. Buchanan and others, upon the Maine Boundary question. Mr Buchanan is the Chairman of the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations; and to whatever fall from him therefore on the subject of these relations, much consideration is justly due. We are pained to learn, from his lips, that serious difficulties are apprehended with the British Government before the controversy concerning the Boundary is brought to a close. We are, we repeat, sorry to hear it, having confidence in the honorable Senator that he would not say so if he did not think so. We had hoped—nay, we still hope—better things. We cannot bring ourselves to believe that the dispute upon this point can be carried to extremities between two nations having the good feeling towards each other which the People and Governments of Great Britain and the U. States now really have.

Enough was said in the brief debate of Friday, by every gentleman who took part in it, to wake up public attention, which, in this part of the country at least, has been profoundly asleep, in reference to this whole matter, ever since the effect of the agreement between Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Fox was ascertained to be to prevent any bloodshed, for the time, between the borderers.

The apprehension of trouble in this quarter seems to exist in the British Provinces as well as here. Sir John Harvey, the Governor of New-Brunswick, has published, in the Quebec Mercury, the following:—

MEMORANDUM.

I am desirous of impressing upon the inhabitants of the frontier districts of this Province, that in the event of hostilities with the United States, the most prudent course to be pursued on either side, (for the measure to be effectual must be reciprocal,) would, in my opinion, be that of a strict neutrality.—Let the Borderers remember that as connected with the war, if we should unhappily be compelled to engage in one, no national object can possibly be advanced by any display of hostile feelings toward each other—they might, it is true, mutually subject each other to constant alarms, great calamities, suffering and distress—but their utmost efforts must be a drop of water in the determination of the great national questions at issue, which must be decided elsewhere by the naval and military resources of the great powers engaged in the conflict. And let the inhabitants of this Province repose with confidence upon the protection of the parent State, which is alike able and willing to throw her powerful shield over all who have a just claim to her protection and defence.

We commend to the reader's attention the highly interesting testimony of Captain Hilliard, in this day's paper. It presents a clear and connected history of the melancholy event, and makes much intelligible that has heretofore seemed difficult to understand.—From Capt. H.'s testimony it appears that the passengers, or a large portion of them, took possession of the boats, and drowned themselves, even before the danger became imminent; and that had they waited but ten minutes longer, the way of the boat would have been stopped, and the quarter boats could have been deliberately lowered, and the greater part, if not all saved. When, with singular self-possession, he lowered himself into the sea, nearly all the passengers had already found a watery grave. The self-possession he evinced, as shown by his testimony, and whole narrative, mark him one man of a thousand.

The melancholy death of Captain Childs, is here explained. The probability is, that he perished from suffocation in the steering house. The small number of passengers seen by Captain Manchester on the fore-castle, and the large proportion of the boat hands, is also explained, by the hasty measures of the passengers, as described by Captain Hilliard.

The passage of the testimony relative to the little child floating near the stern of the schooner, the mother, regardless of herself calling upon him to save her child, gives us another instance of the disinterested affection of the mother. It may have been that this lady was Mrs. Jarvis, and as the child was a female, that supposition seems extremely probable.—nay, almost certain. To her friends, this will seem as a last interview with the departed. The centring of her heart upon an object dear alike to all white all survived, and doubly dear in the memory of the lonely and heart-stricken survivors, will lead fancy to date the last communion of thought as held upon the burning wreck of the Lexington. When time has mellowed their grief into that pleasing melancholy which delights to dwell on the virtues of the departed, it will seem to the desolate husband, as if he were present at the scene, and shared the solicitude of the mother who cared only for her child when her own death was certain.—N. Y. Dispatch.

The North Eastern Boundary.—The Augusta (Me.) Age, of Tuesday, contains the following paragraph:

We understand that Governor Fairfield has received in reply to his letter to the President of the 23d ult., a letter from Mr. Forsyth, Secretary of State—by which it appears that prior to the reception of the Governor's letter, the President had received information from another quarter of the late movement of the British troops upon the disputed territory, and had immediately made it the subject of representations to the British Minister at Washington, who is now in correspondence with the Colonial authorities, upon the subject. A further reply is soon expected by the Governor.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Daily Express. WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.

THE SUB-TREASURY—A GREAT SPEECH FROM MR. CLAY.

The interminable debate upon the Abolition question continued this morning where it closed on Saturday night. Mr. Slade, of Vermont, was entitled to the floor, and spoke to the close of the session. The speech will be a god-send to the abolitionists, for, *multum in parvo*, it covers the whole ground from the days of latter Adam to the present age. Mr. Slade, however, is not a political abolitionist, and will not oppose any man because he does not think as he thinks upon the subject. Mr. Slade concluded between three and four o'clock, p. m. Mr. Garland has the floor to-morrow.

The Senate Chamber has been the most attractive spot about the capital to-day. I found it thronged an hour before the opening, and I have never seen the body fuller than it continued for five hours. The concourse was immense, and the audience such an one as Mr. Clay always draws. The ladies' gallery was mostly filled with the beauty and fashion of the metropolis, and the Calcutta black hole opposite, better known perhaps as the "gentlemen's gallery," was not less thronged with an unmixt male creation. Mr. Clay did not begin his speech until past two. For two hours and some minutes he chained the attention of his hearers, and made an argument against the Sub-Treasury Bill which his friends all think a most conclusive one. Certain I am, it is the best speech Mr. Clay has yet made upon this Bill of Abominations; and those who have heard Mr. Clay every year for years, say it is worthy of his very best efforts in younger days. You will of course publish it, and I will not therefore give you much more than the sketch of the Report I have already forwarded.

Upon two or three subjects he has advanced arguments of a practical nature, which will tell effectively with those who will read what he says. The question of labor and the wages of labor were one of those themes, and he argues justly that the Sub-Treasury Bill will exert a worse influence upon laboring men than upon almost any class of men in the community. Prices, he is convinced, unless providentially or accidentally kept up, must go down. Another argument of his is, that the wages of the laborer are the index of prosperity; and in proportion as they increase or diminish, like the thermometer they show the rise or depression of the business and prosperity of a country. The cause of our calamity he attributes to the past and present Administrations,—that of speculation over-banking, and that of too much banking to the removal of the Deposites, and the instructions given to the Deposit Banks by the Head of the Government. He admits that what the President says is true in regard to our being influenced by the money of England, but the cause of it he says is the destruction of the Bank of the United States, which before maintained our credit abroad.

The hue and cry raised by the Administration against paper money, he says, will avail nothing; for paper money, in spite of the Administration, will be issued by the States. The alarm may have the effect to injure, but cannot destroy. He predicts that in ten years, if the Sub-Treasury Bill goes into full operation, the Receiver General will have one-half the specie of the country locked up. Then he contends that the Executive from convenience to the Government and the People of necessity to themselves, will demand that the restriction be taken from the Bill requiring an exclusive metallic currency. The drafts of the Government under the Sub-Treasury Bill he contends will be sought for in England, and the Barings & Brothers, and Rothschilds, and others, will consider them of great value to them. He believes that in one year ten millions of the Government money will be unavailable, the second year three more, and so on to the end.

The conclusion of the speech, though partly declamatory, was one of the most effective instances of parliamentary eloquence I have ever listened to. The subject was the great increase of Executive power under the Sub-Treasury Bill. He felt sure it would increase the power of the President and the bribes of the People, and had the latter cried out for an augmentation of their burdens, nothing would so effectually have made the increase as this same Bill. Already the Executive overshadowed the land. He had a power which overbalanced that of the Constitution,—a power of pressing a measure of so much importance as the Bill before the Senate, through the Senate in indecent haste. He had the power to say that so important a measure as this one before the Senate should not originate in the House, where all such Bills should come from. He had a power to create office and to expel from office, and now it was proposed to increase that power by making him the President, the Teller, the Cashier and the Board of Directors of a Government Bank. If, said Mr. Clay, God in his infinite mercy can abandon us to an evil, the scheme, proposed is the greatest affliction which can befall us.

I might continue, but I will quench the desire you will have to read the whole speech either by marring what was said or by reporting the remarks made. Mr. Clay's picture of Mr. Van Buren and his indifference to the welfare of the people, had a thrilling effect upon the Senate. Every part of the country he said, was bleeding. The physician of the White House, he who should be our common father, alone looked on the suffering without sympathy and without feeling. While even the wide-spread calamity of suffering was felt by others and lamented over, he who should be the common protector stood unmoved and wrapt in stolid indifference to us.

North Eastern Boundary.—The National Gazette of Tuesday, of last week, says in relation to this subject, "that an express from the Governor General of Canada, with despatches for the British Minister at Washington, arrived in this city last night in the very short time of five days from Toronto, U. C., and proceeded to Washington in the rail road line, at 8 o'clock this morning."

Small Pox.—In the last number of the Medical Journal we find a letter to the editor, from Dr. Flint of Springfield, which we copy, as below. Dr Flint has long been known as a most intelligent scientific physician. What conclusion he may have intended the public should draw from his statement, we cannot tell; but it seems to us, to be simply this. The "regular small pox" or "pustular small pox" but the "confluent" or "pustular small pox" but the "regular small pox" does not now exist, and the small pox now prevalent is an entirely different disease. An important question hence arises, which the Doctor does not attempt to answer, viz: Is the kind pox a "certain preventive" of the "distinct disease," which is now carrying off its daily victims, under the name of small pox?—Boston Courier.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Dear Sir,—Thirty-eight years ago I was inoculated for cow pox, from matter obtained from Dr. Waterhouse. Thirty-four years since, an inhabitant of Northboro', county of Worcester, returned from New York inoculated, and shortly afterwards came out with small pox. At that time vaccination was not much practiced, and as his own family and others in the district were exposed to the disease, the authorities ordered an inoculation for small pox of all who had been and were exposed. To test the preventive power of cow pox, I visited this little hospital, and took with me two others, whom I had previously vaccinated at different times; and we procured ourselves to be inoculated by the attending physician, from the body of the man who had a few days afterwards of confluent small pox. The punctures in our several arms inflamed slightly in about twenty-four hours, and in five or six days subsequently terminated in an irregular scab, which fell off, leaving no mark. Since then I have treated the disease as it prevails now at many different times, and am familiar with its appearance in the unprotected, in those who have had cow pox, and in those who have had natural small pox, and small pox by inoculation.

How cow pox should be a preventive of small pox in any instance, or why small pox should be modified by cow pox, I do not pretend to know. But it is strange that small pox—the most cruel, loathsome and deadly of all diseases derived from specific infection—is not a security against a second attack of the same disease. It is a singular departure from the laws that uniformly govern other diseases which are propagated, we know, by specific infection. Measels may be confounded with other exanthemata which simulate it; mumps with incidents inflammation of the parotid glands; whooping cough with bronchitis; chicken pox with mild or mitigated small pox; and the strong resemblance between the latter, induced Thompson, in his treatise on small pox, &c. to affiliate small pox, varioloid and chicken pox.—But these mistakes, to an experienced eye, will so seldom happen as to furnish scarcely an exception.

My own opinion is, that small pox, as it exists now, is as distinct from the "regular small pox" described by Sydenham and the earlier writers, as is chicken pox from varioloid; that the small pox of the present time is described by Sydenham under the name of "anomalous small pox." A history of the same disease was written by Rogers (if I mistake not) as it prevailed in some part of Ireland, and again by some one (name not recollecting) in India. "Regular small pox," as described by Sydenham, was a pustular disease, accompanied with phlegmonous inflammation. I suppose cow pox to be a certain preventive of the disease; and since the almost universal introduction of cow pox, that pustular-small pox is among "things that were"—that it does not, in fact, exist at this time.

The small pox of this day is a vesicular disease, and the accompanying inflammation is erysipelatous—a distinct disease, and requiring medication and management quite different from the approved method of treating "pustular small pox." If this hypothesis be correct, it does away entirely many perplexing doubts and embarrassments.—And these suggestions, I hope, will induce others of more leisure and better means to re-examine the earlier authorities, comparing their descriptions and histories with what is passing now under our own eyes.

Respectfully, your obedient servant, JOSEPH H. FLINT, Springfield, Dec. 30, 1839.

Most extraordinary case of Fasting.—An instance of very uncommon fasting has excited a great deal of interest in this vicinity, for some weeks past, and we have taken pains to ascertain from a very intelligent medical friend conversant with all the circumstances, a correct account of the matter.

It appears that Calvin Morgan, of Portersville, in Groton, a member of the Methodist Church, and a man remarkable for his probity, piety, and veracity, has been for ten years one of the nearest neighbors of our informant. He has been for some time past in the habit of fasting for one or two days in the week. "On the 28th day of November last, he commenced a fast of 40 days from all food, taking nothing but a little cold water—say half a pint in every 24 hours for the whole time.—During the latter part of his abstinence, he was visited by the physician of the place almost every day. He was able to go about, and continued to do so even in the very coldest days of last week. In 21 days of his abstinence, *nullum sed anam evacuationem habuit*: his pulse varied from 40 to 50 in a minute, and very feeble; and there was nothing, but once, to indicate any activity of the bowels. On Tuesday of the present month, with his mind tranquil and pleasant he commenced eating, and this afternoon (the 10th inst.) I called to visit him, but found him absent, on a visit to his father, who resides about three miles from this place.

It appears that Mr. Morgan has been actuated by some religious motive in the above line of conduct, and has depended upon faith for his support through all his troubles. If he has had no other sustenance, surely the days of miracles are not passed.—Portersville (Pa.) paper.